

Notes from comments at the NOAA Stakeholder Meeting
January 12, 2004
1:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Questions to Jack Kelly

1 No name or title for first questioner, just that his name is John.

You are aware of joint program office with transition of transportation what are you thoughts? Now that aviation is growing and changes are required, lot to do with weather? John?

FAA said within next 10-15 years, Air Traffic Control system could be a bottleneck to aviation. We are going to transform the system. NWS people are involved; Deputy Secretary of Commerce is on the oversight panel, as are NASA Administrator, O’Keefe, Secretary of Transportation Manetta and other people. There has been one high level meeting. It will involve weather; something only dawned on them recently. How much money will determine how serious is it

John—How serious is NOAA?

The things that contributes most to delay and fatalities is weather. Need to see how serious FAA is will determine our involvement

2. No name or title of speaker

NOAA’s challenge is to use talent in-house as well as externally. What is matrix management about? Given ocean commission will recommend NOAA will be reorganized--. What are you thinking?

Ocean Commission will say something about organization structure in NOAA. The talk of matrix management and vision –harder to talk internally in NOAA than to talk externally. Yet changes in climate e.g. in Alaska has had changes in fish population. Lets get NOAA to operate the way the world operates in matrix management—e.g. cold fronts cross country borders. NOAA—the world is a linked earth system and we have to operate that way. Decision to go to matrix management—all Line Offices (Los) need to get together in a team and Los share control of their people on a matrix team. Not getting that message out internally. We have too few matrix programs. There is too little one organization can do by itself. The Research Review—3 external, 2 internal members, are telling us you don’t manage research well, need to help us figure out what to do next or someone else will do it. Congress gave us language about things to do; OMB gave us “help” on what to do. Fear is that outside help will not be as good as NOAA help. We need to work together and science in interdisciplinary.

Chuck Hakkarinen Retired from EPRI.

Q: What International collaboration does NOAA have plan to aid Japan and other nations who lost recent satellites.

A: NOAA moved the GOES satellite to help coverage for Japan. Would like to have longer-term relationship and help each other. Sensitive due to national pride. US member

of WMO and millions of tax dollars go there to help world weather services. Member of other international commissions as well. NPOES will rely on a European contribution for one of the sounders. Many people involved in integrated Earth Observing System. 38 countries and many international organizations working to pull together observations for that.

Steve Aubuchon FAA

Q: Expand on NOAA performance based management. FAA is just starting this.

A: First thing in NOAA is reform on budget structure to get meaningful dollar information to link to programs and goals/outcomes. Tornado lead-time improved dramatically—how much comes from various integrated pieces—haven't figured out how to do it. NOAA is interested in what FAA is doing in this topic.

Gary covvellis Chair of Space xx Center in Washington—get spelling and his title.

Q: Concerned about spatial issues, spatial reference is important. Other countries can go out with one piece of equipment and get more than we can. We need NGS to work on this.

A: Jamie Hawkins from NOS—NGS is in portfolio. As resources allow, do nationwide height modernization program. Have some funds for some states. Tried to justify budget increases for a national increase. Suggest list this as an urgent problem'

Joe Golden, NOAA Forecast Systems Laboratory

Q: It seems that we have to do a strategic plan for every Administration. How often do we do it? Do we have congressional buy in? PPBS seems to have no allowance with innovation, all requirements. For example, Doppler radar wasn't in anyone's requirements when started in NSSL, same with Wind Profiler Network (WPN).

A—There was a NWS requirement—it just was not called Doppler or WPN. Depends on how articulate requirements and doesn't have to stifle innovation. Not an either/ or situation with requirements or innovation. There has been lots of talk on Strategic Planning but some of it wasn't really strategic planning. . NOAA did not do a strategic plan in Clinton Administration, just a way of doing the budget. How often does one do a total revamp of a strategic plan? Can't redo it every year but need to see what has changed and make some adjustments. When he went to NWS, did a strategic plan to see where it was going after modernization. IF WPN was so important, why didn't it move from research to NWS? While research is maintaining it, should they be working on next innovation instead?

Questions to S. Edward Boselly

Chuck Hakarrinen, retired from Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Not running MM5 from 4 km, road problems defined from shading from local trees or hills, need local information to modify forecasts.

Yes, there are places that need 1km resolution but Cliff Mass uses road weather pavement system instruments to do road weather forecast and see bias over 2 weeks and adjust models.

Bob Seraphim from NCAR.Q: Radar can't see through mountains. Use a mosaic to look at whole picture.

A: Use 4 radars to do a mosaic to capture picture.

Questions to Nathan Mantua

Paul Sperry, CIRES in Boulder Colorado

As NOAA discovering value of matrix management, --are your activities with stakeholders an example of scientific matrixing?

A: This has been a successful program which links NOAA science in climate to stakeholders and has seen benefit of advances in climate science.

Questions to Glenn Woodbury

Craig Weaver with USGS in Seattle—

(Comment, not a question) Talk is a good lesson for NOAA is struggle with matrix management. It is hard to keep local entrepreneurship like what Glenn described in Seattle) under matrix management.

Questions to Clifford Mass

JR Thomas Past President of the International Association of Emergency Managers

Do you propose eliminating Weather Forecast offices? (Check on the wording of this question)

A: No: but instead of everything happening in D.C. suggest that there could be regional efforts (check this since I don't feel I captured this well)

Mike Uhart, NOAA Research Weather and Air Quality Office

How do you decide how to move what you are doing into the NWS—not doing any good if what you are doing doesn't get into NWS?

Efforts need to feed back into local forecast office—need national and regional efforts

Jamie Hawkins, Deputy Assistant Administrator of National Ocean Service: How much of your money comes from NOAA?

A: 20%

Get notes on Rodgers talk since he did not have a PowerPoint presentation.

Questions to Bill Rodgers

Mary Glackin—to all—In general panelists seem to say it is easy to work with NOAA. What else could we do?

Answer:

Boselly

It is easy working with NOAA. He has been a meteorologist since mid80s, NW modeling consortium helps. His position created year and half ago.

Rodgers: Have had good experiences working with NOAA. Urge stakeholders to realize the stress they place in the current world with FOIA requests. He aims his FOIA requests 10 years back and there are costs in responding.

Mass: No problem with NOAA. Never heard of budget as an excuse not to work with them.

Not sure which panelist said the following: Experience depends on which NOAA. Cooperative relationship with NW offices and Western region. Have been some issues with national office on radars and political issues. Looking for more acceptance of regional efforts as not a threat but cooperative. Work with NCEP in a cooperative relationship.

Tim Peter NWS Seattle. Said to panelists we are working on one mission. That is where we have the same passion and work together so well.

Facilitated Dialogue Session

Anita Brady, Facilitator: Want to hear what you really want, not what is politically correct.

Fred Feldman, Ocean Advocates—Conference bringing together a section of NOAA joined at hip. Don't need to look for problems where things are working. Atmospheric is one area that is working, apply it to marine and natural resources area where it is more contentious. Look at why things are working in one arena. NOAA has talent pool that it doesn't draw on; going between the divisions on NOAA -that is where we need to go. Look at how critter in ocean responds to challenges in a number of areas. Challenge in environmental side, talents not being made use of. Alaska is running the country and spends money on silly challenges.

Herb Jakowitz (sp), NOAA retired. What is urgent we can do now that warrants our attention? In coming years we are familiar with greenhouse warming—need to do a better job on monitoring climate change, global warming. Urgent now to do this for the future—be more accurate.

Mike McAllister, County Emergency Manager Office

He learned that basic research works better if they have a menu. Navy system, 6.1 basic, 6.2 applied research, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5 closer and closer to delivery based on identification by fleet. Scientists need to identify what they need to monitor climate better in ocean and atmosphere. That will provide steering for basic and applied research people and those who bring it to delivery. He was involved in ATLAS moorings in equatorial pacific. A NOAA lab is still working on keeping those buoys alive and program is 20 years old.

This program should have been turned over to National data buoy center that does operational stuff. Need to be stepwise to guide research better.

Comment on previous comment—It is not the only scientists who need to identify what to better monitor. One example is the big problem relating vector born infectious diseases to climate. It is the doctors that need to identify the data needed. It is outside that has to say what do they need. Need to enlarge the stakeholders.

Terry Stevens. State of Washington.

He manages coastal protected areas under NERS, NOS. Lot of stakeholders, monitoring sites, and education. NOAA needs to take a look at what is going on observations in NERS. Implementing NW Straits Marine Conservation area, they are engaging stakeholders. Community restoration area has helped Puget Sound has generated state and private money to help with restoration.

Dr. Arbitzen sp? : LA University

Urgent need to train children to be future employees in NOAA. She is a coordinator of a program sponsored by NESDIS, and since NESDIS is sponsoring it, NWS has refused to sponsor it. Needs to be more collaboration across NOAA. If want to excite children, get teachers excited. NOAA needs to put more emphasis on this.

JR Thomas. Ohio

One emergency management issue, during severe weather. Need to have enough staff on board to provide information. A lot of offices as they consolidated went to larger coverage area. His office covers 55 counties. Look at staffing patterns to see if they can be increased by staff sharing or other ways.

Joel Myers President Accuweather

NWS can do a better job. When they issue warnings, the warnings are not updated for 25-35 minutes. NWS spends too much time doing specialized things that private sector could do.

Chuck Hakkarinen

Real question on climate change is how it is going to change. Think need to do a better effort at detectability for future. If going to have a network to detect climate change under various scenarios. Need thinking and planning about where those changes would be manifested, how manifested and how dense of a network do they have to put in place to detect those differences with statistical significance. . More likely to put in place the network they have the money for. It is all regional—need to put in place networking that look at regional effects.

Kim Keel, Consulting engineer. Public not getting message. Maybe we are not giving them what they need and asks how we can evaluate what they need.

Ron Isaac Ohio U.

NWS forecasts are fine in hub, e.g. Seattle. When an area is on the edge between two offices, one office has a good warning and another does not. NWS political viewpoint or coverage area interferes with what people think. Peripherals are getting mixed messages and hard for public to understand how offices are coordinated.

Emphasize issue with radar on west coast. Important that that is one of the holes since western weather reaches Midwest. Issue of collaboration between Environment Canada and NWS: a visit by U.S. staff requires a 6 week clearance in HQ.

Chuck Hakkarinen

Entire ocean program, particularly modeling needs a large increase. Need better models, computing power, people, and data management. Major effort needs to be made from ocean community on building NOAA program.

How can NOAA support you?

Mike McAllister

Specific needs he has—Dr. Mass said need to do regional modeling, but also need to do local modeling. Smaller models not available. How do I use MM5 to improve understanding of what to do in emergency management? One thing that helps is NWS talk to county emergency managers about needs. Should be forecasters and research people who talk to them. Have had conversations with PMEL tsunami researchers. That helps him feel that NOAA is helping. NWS should do that.

Ruth, Satellite Service

Would satellite imagery be helpful?

Mike McAllister

Gave NOAA information from river gauges. Can support each other. Yes, can use imagery.

Chuck Hakkarinen.

Question is not weather related damage. If spend 1 billion in NOAA will he see cost benefit of more than 1 billion. Have we done a cost benefit assessment? That would really help in selling story to citizens and Congress.

Paula Arbitzen

Evidence says fields in trouble that you won't have your employees. Need to excite middle school students. General Arnold said children interest in space based technology until 3rd grade but interest wanes because you lose teachers. NOAA has Space Weather comic book but needs to be distributed. College students need support to come to conferences etc. NOAA can put into a budget without spending a lot of money.

Pat Ortman, formerly SEC

She was excited by astronomy. Burned out after getting a job in the field. If there are burned out scientists or not enough resources, don't want to be exciting students unless they want to stick with it. Scientists are pulled in too many directions with different priorities and can't do research. It is a difficult field.

Jamie Hawkins question to Mike McAllister--Asked about reactions to NOS hazardous materials staff.

Mike's answer. Needed NOAA assistance 5 years ago with ammonia chlorine storage event. Only thing they had for prediction of plume was local predictions from a microcomputer. Didn't have a NOAA person to go to for long range prediction of forecast. Problem getting that information has been solved. Has no current experience with the NOS hazardous materials staff.

Chuck Hakkarinen. Don't assume that everything has to be done by NOAA. For example, Lawrence Livermore has capability for plume prediction for example. NOAA should put this on their website.

Jamie Hawkins, NOAA. Good suggestions. He will be meeting with DOE next week on distribution of information.

Comment-If go to Lawrence Livermore website, need user name and password

Jim O'Brien Florida. Emergency Management people in Florida have access to MM5 and can get specialized info they need.

Paul Sperry, CIRES

NOAA has strength but budget uncertainties leave people treading water. Disconnect between research and operations but hope on horizon. Not to circle wagons but embrace process. We have good talent. Appears to be lots of management overhead at least from the field perspective.

Last question what can you do to support NOAA.

Paula Arbitzen. She is strong advocate for NOAA. She puts in her time without reimbursement and spreads word about NOAA. When she goes out to visit schools She has more stuff to take from NASA than NOAA. Would like more stuff from NOAA. Teacher at Sea is a fantastic program.

Jim O'Brien. He has a pro bono job as State of Florida climatologist. Seasonal forecast difficult for nonspecialist to understand. They have explained them for NOAA. Explained additional forecasts. There is a renaissance of state climatologists, working with NCDC and they are taking the overload from NCDC. State climatologists are helping NOAA by interpretation of data from NOAA.

Pat Worman. A number of people in aerospace are supporting NOAA in developing requirements for space instruments.

Tony Tafoya, NOAA

Comment on need for women and minorities to go into ocean and atmospheric sciences. Thinks that scientists can bring in bright students into NOAA so that we don't have burnout problem.

Joel Myers

When he started Accuweather, total revenues were \$5-10M (check number) and private sector is \$1 billion and is now larger than NWS. In other areas there is cooperation with private section. NWS doesn't appreciate the animosity in the private sector due to competition by NWS.

Long range –NWS should stick with core mission, better quality data, running and improving the model and quality on the forecasts and warnings. NWS is doing things outside its mission. The private sector is a big area of potential support. Private sector is growing and depends on data and model output of NWS. Reduce animosity between NWS and private sector. Different products issued by different offices with no standardization. When warning is issued have to update all the products, and this stands in way of updating forecasts.

Chuck Hakkarinen

Thanks to the NOAA people. Pleased that so many of NOAA senior staff has stayed to hear comments.